

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached drawings include changes to FIGS. 2-4 as described in the "Remarks" section of this Amendment. The attached sheets replace the originally filed sheets containing FIGS. 2-4.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 19-21 and 23 have been amended. Claims 18, 22 and 25 have been canceled. Claims 1, 17, 19-21 and 23-24 are now pending in this application.

Claims 19, 20, 21 and 23 stand objected to based on certain informalities. Applicant has amended the claims to address the concerns of the Office Action. The drawings also stand objected to based on certain informalities. A set of corrected replacement drawing sheets for FIGS. 2-4 are attached. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objections be reconsidered.

Claims 1, 17, 19-21 and 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kohno (U.S. Patent No. 6,538,955). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, "a voltage sink, connected to said second output inverter, said voltage sink being at a potential lower than ground." Claims 19 and 23 recite a similar limitation.

Applicant has amended the claims to include allowable subject matter as stated by the Office Action. Applicant, thus, believes claims 1, 19 and 23 to be allowable. Claim 17 depends from claim 1 and is allowable along with claim 1. Claims 20 and 21 depend from claim 19 and are allowable along with claim 19. Claim 24 depends from claim 23 and is allowable along with claim 23.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

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In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

Thomas J. D'Amico

Registration No.: 28,371

DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN &
OSHINSKY LLP

2101 L Street NW

Washington, DC 20037-1526

(202) 785-9700

Attorney for Applicant